

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1117

By Atchley

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize St. Mary's Health System
for its dedication to the community.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable organizations that have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their community and fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, St. Mary's Health System is one such venerable institution that recently held a community summit to challenge Tennesseans to lead healthier lives; and

WHEREAS, headquartered in Knoxville, the St. Mary's Health System is comprised of St. Mary's Medical Center in Knoxville, St. Mary's Memorial Hospital in Jefferson City, and St. Mary's Medical Center of Campbell County, LaFollette; and

WHEREAS, its other facilities include St. Mary's Ambulatory Surgery Center, St. Mary's Residential Hospice, St. Mary's Health and Fitness Center, St. Mary's HomeCare Services, St. Mary's HomeCare Equipment Company, St. Mary's Holston Health and Rehabilitation Center, and St. Mary's Foundation; and

WHEREAS, more than 800 of the East Tennessee region's most qualified physicians are on the medical staff at St. Mary's Health System facilities; the large medical staff is complemented by 3,600 associates who provide East Tennessee residents with the highest quality patient care; and

WHEREAS, led by CEO Debra London, these dedicated employees held a community summit titled "Healthy for Life - A Community Summit" to address the need for healthier lifestyles on January 27, 2004; and

WHEREAS, St. Mary's Health System's leadership met with more than thirty businesses to encourage regional leaders to begin grassroots employee health programs; approximately six businesses have started their own programs under the mentoring and tutelage of St. Mary's; and

WHEREAS, one of the primary issues that the community summit addresses is the growing problem of obesity in our nation; a problem of epidemic proportions, obesity affects the lives of more than 60 percent of Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Senator Bill Frist drafted legislation aimed at reducing obesity, particularly among children and adolescents; the St. Mary's Health System led the way in East Tennessee with a community call to action; and

WHEREAS, this strategic one-day summit addressed the Health System's role in promoting health and overall quality of life of East Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, this effort has received the support of many public officials, including Senator Frist, who called the St. Mary's initiative a "model for other healthcare systems," and Health and Human Services Director Tommy Thompson; and

WHEREAS, the regional health summit featured well-known speakers, discussion forums, and information about health issues; and

WHEREAS, the employees of St. Mary's Health System continue to work tirelessly on behalf of the general public, not just through community events, but also through their daily work; and

WHEREAS, these valiant efforts to inform and encourage Tennesseans to live healthier lifestyles are worthy of recognition of this legislative body; and

WHEREAS, these exemplary leaders are wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and they should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend St. Mary's Health System for its dedication to the East Tennessee community, thank Debra London for her astute leadership and devoted public service, and salute the company and its employees for their unswerving commitment to the greater good of their fellow citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.